

PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

THE BIRDS OF OKLAHOMA. By Margaret Morse Nice and Leonard Blaine Nice. University of Oklahoma Bulletin, new series, No. 20, pp. 1-122. Norman, Oklahoma, May 15, 1924.

As is evidenced by the short bibliography in this report (it covers only nine printed pages) comparatively little has been published concerning the birds of Oklahoma, and most of it has been so scattered through various reports and periodicals as to be unavailable to the majority of the students of birds without a wearisome search. To assemble these scattered records and make them easily available would in itself have been a very valuable piece of work, but the authors of this report have had in addition unpublished notes from twenty-eight observers, amply supplemented by their own notes, with which to make this catalogue fairly reflective of present day knowledge of the avifauna of the state. Altogether they list 361 species and subspecies, of which "96 are residents, either non-migratory birds nesting in the state or migratory birds occurring in both summer and winter; 117 are summer breeding species; 49 are winter visitors; 83 are spring and fall transients and 16 are of casual occurrence." Since the Kansas list is only slightly larger (379 in 1913, *vide* Bunker) and the Iowa list is actually smaller (354 in 1907, *vide* Anderson), we may safely assume that this catalogue of Oklahoma birds is fairly complete. This is further evidenced by the brief hypothetical list (pp. 112-115), of only thirty-six forms.

The report proper is preceded by a geological map of the state and by pertinent remarks on the physical features and faunal areas, a historical sketch of early Oklahoma records and a discussion of the changes in Oklahoma bird life during the last seventy years. Practical remarks on the game laws of Oklahoma, the economic value of birds and suggestions on the attraction and protection of birds then follow. All of this preliminary matter is admirably condensed into less than nineteen printed pages, leaving some eighty pages for the annotated list. The nomenclature in this list is practically that of the A. O. U. Check List and its supplements, excepting in a half dozen cases where the subspecies concerned is one not as yet recognized by the A. O. U. Committee, but one that in the opinion of the authors and of the two competent ornithologists upon whom they have largely relied for the technical authority of the report (Messrs. Ridgway and Oberholser) is entitled to recognition, when they have used names of these authorities, appending a footnote explaining the nearest present equivalent in the A. O. U. Check List—a method of treatment amply justified, in the opinion of the reviewer.

The report is well indexed and is accompanied by two half-tone plates illustrating types of Oklahoma topography. The authors are to be complimented on having succeeded in preparing so acceptable and useful a state list in so few pages, and the appearance of this report should give a great impetus to the local study of the birds in Oklahoma.—M. H. S.

THE ORNITHOLOGY OF TODAY AND TOMORROW. By Witmer Stone. Reprinted from "The Fiftieth Anniversary of the Nuttall Ornithological Club". Pp. 7-25. October, 1924.

This address by Dr. Stone at the fiftieth anniversary of the Nuttall Club is a noteworthy survey of the trend in the ornithological world today. Our space will